



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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December 2004

METROPOLITAN ANTHONY HOSPITALIZED - CATHEDRAL PRAYS FOR HIS RECOVERY

The Cathedral community was stunned to learn of the sudden hospitalization of His Eminence, Metropolitan Anthony on November 18. We began to pray for his healing and recovering. On November 22, Dr. Joseph Tuscano, associate professor of medicine, hematology and oncology at U.C. Davis School of Medicine and Medical Center, released the following statement:

Metropolitan Anthony of San Francisco was admitted to U.C. Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, California, on Thursday, November 18, with a diagnosis of a form of cancer termed Burkitt's lymphoma, a malignancy of the lymph nodes. Metropolitan Anthony is undergoing intensive treatment with chemotherapy, and is also receiving immunotherapy, the latest approach to the treatment of the disease. His response thus far has been very favorable; however, his condition will require continued evaluation

and treatments over the next several months.

Paraklesis prayer services have been offered at the Cathedral for His Eminence's recovery. Though saddened by the diagnosis, we are encouraged by Dr. Tuscano's announcement that His Eminence's response to the treatment "thus far has been very favorable." Our prayers are with His Eminence, that God may heal and restore him, and with his family, who have been with him throughout this period.

Understandably, Cathedral parishioners want to express their concern and their love. The most important way is to continue to keep His Eminence in our prayers. If one wishes, a get well card may be sent to the Metropolis. However, visits are limited to the immediate family and flowers are not permitted. We will keep you posted on His Eminence's condition by means of pulpit announcements and those in the weekly bulletin.

ON DECEMBER 5: KICKOFF FOR STEWARDSHIP 2005 - A WORD FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP CHAIR

It is with great enthusiasm that we write to all of you. We would like to take this opportunity to review the basic ideas of the Christian Stewardship program. We are gearing up for another wonderful year together as members of our wonderful Cathedral and with this year's theme "We Praise, Bless and Thank You" we want to know what we can do for each other.

Christian Stewardship is a life-style, which acknowledges that as Orthodox Christians we are accountable and responsible before God. It begins when we say, "I

believe in God, to whom I give my love, loyalty and trust. We affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from God." Stewardship is one of the greatest and most sacred privileges we have to offer as Christians, for by it we are directly participating and supporting God's work on earth and the Ministry of our Church.

In order for our stewardship program to stay and continue becoming successful we need to look at all of you who willingly and sacrificially offer your time, talents and treasures to the Lord. We have seen with our own parishioners that this gets turned from a sacrifice to a joy, which enhances the spiritual life of all stewards and this results in the growth of the ministries of our

Cathedral. The overwhelming response to the preparation of our festival, the exponential growth of our youth programs, our marriage encounters and the other programs of our Cathedral, show we are thriving as a community.

Over the last several months, with the welcome addition of Father Paul and of course Father Gregory, we have identified many needs in our surrounding community and filled those needs by embracing our parishioners to attend Bible Study groups and visiting homebound shut-ins just to name a few. Let's reflect on our wonderful year together and look forward with great anticipation to 2005 and what our commitment and relationship to our Cathedral should be. Let's strengthen our spiritual relationship with our church and our priests and embrace our community with both our hands.

So on Sunday, December 5, look for our 2005 stewardship information and make your pledges to our Cathedral for the upcoming year.

Yours truly in Christ,

Gus Vouchilas, Stewardship Chair
Tessie Calligeros Obester,
Stewardship Coordinator

SEVEN RUN FOR PARISH COUNCIL

Following the Parish Assembly held November 17, the Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate for Parish Council elections, to be held on Sunday, December 12 immediately after the Divine Liturgy: Patricia Aleck, George Ambus, Nick Kontonis, Peter Manetas, Michael Mithos, Nicholas Rally, and John Sooklaris.

George Mattis, Pat Destein, and Ted Leventis will oversee the elections.

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HONORS PAT ALECK

In one of the lovelier events held at the Cathedral, on Saturday, November 20, **Pat Aleck** was honored as immediate Past President of the Parish Council and for a life time of service. Apart from the decorations, the food, the ambiance and the tributes (all of which were simply done to perfection), it was Pat's generous response which made the evening a most memorable occasion. It is being reprinted below as a means of inspiring others. Please take the time to read it and consider how giving of yourself in service to the Church can make a difference in the lives of others and, especially, in your own.

"Father Stephen, Father Paris, (Thank you so much for being here; I feel honored by your presence; I was baptized at the Ascension), Parish Council President Tom Nuris and dear friends and relatives. What a tribute! I thank you all for coming this evening, so close to the Thanksgiving holiday. This feels quite strange, to be behind this podium, being recognized. I usually am the person who is in the back looking after things. As Tessie Obester says, who is more anal and a perfectionist than I. This is really a highlight moment for me. It is such an honor to be recognized for the small things that you do in life. One's hope is that, whatever we do, we make a difference. I can only hope that I have, in some small measure. I'd like to thank my Alpha Psi Sisters, my friends from the Hellenic American Professional Society, and friends from other organizations I serve. It's been a busy three days. The phone has been ringing off the hook with people who are away saying they are away or ill and cannot make it.

"The Church has been a very important part of my life. I can remember my Mentor, Irene Gianaras, telling me not to worry; I'd learn what I needed to, once I got involved and on the Parish Council. Well, in all honesty, I waken each day and feel no different than I did my first day on Parish Council. There is always something new to learn. We used to say when we were children,

Why do we have to go to Church? And, to this day I remember my wonderful parents saying that the Church gives us many gifts and we should always receive them. As children, we used to ask, What gifts? The gifts of faith, knowledge, family, caring friends, a safe haven, a place to renew, a place to glory in our Heavenly Father, a place to connect with our language and culture and to share all this with others. They would tell us we are good will ambassadors of our Faith and we need to reciprocate by giving back gifts to our Church. Our gifts are many--each of us has special talents to give. When I was President, I used to pray to win the lottery to help the Church. But I have learned over the years that everything has a time. Our church has come so far with small steps. But I truly believe that, as we join hands with our talents and time, it is Annunciation's time to build our Cathedral and to build on our Faith. I look forward to seeing that happen. I know that it will happen. It is truly a time to build.

"Again, thank you all for coming and sharing this very special evening. I also wish to thank John Kallas, our master of ceremonies, Liberty and Tom Nuris for this exquisite banquet, Presbytera and Father for their love, support and generous spirits in sharing with my family and with all Annunciation members; I love them dearly. And to those who could not join me this evening, I thank them for their generous donations to the Cathedral in my honor. I love you all!"

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS - A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Once again another year is coming to a close and we look forward to a New Year and a year of peace and a year to do more of God's work.

We accomplished everything we set out to do and more, however, there is one area that I wish we could have been more efficient and recruited more new members to join our Philoptochos. Our primary goal for the coming year, 2005, is to recruit new members and we have designated the month of February 2005 to concen-

trate on this mission. We invite you to join our dynamic and growing Philoptochos. Membership is open to all women over the age of eighteen. Philoptochos needs your talents, be it leadership, working on special events, presentations, graphic arts and most of all volunteering your time in our philanthropic endeavors. Let us share our experiences, gain strength, inspiration, enthusiasm and energy as we move forward together. Remember always that "*I can do all things through Christ.*" Philippians 4:13.

A new brochure has been developed which outlines our mission as to what Philoptochos is all about and what we do as an organization to accomplish our aspirations and goals. You can pick up this brochure at the front office of the Cathedral.

In closing I would like to express my gratitude, and my heartfelt thanks to all the parishioners and clergy who have supported our Philoptochos throughout the year.

I wish everyone at the Annunciation Cathedral a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Angie Leventis,
President

CATHEDRAL ENGAGES FULL-TIME CATERER - A NOTE

In the November issue of the *Herald*, we announced that the Cathedral has engaged **Jack Spachis** as its full-time caterer and outlined the procedure for booking an event at the Cathedral. While the procedure is correct (i.e. call **Mike Canellos**, at 415 864-8815, or 415 864-8000 to book a date, then call Jack) Jack's phone numbers are not correct.

Jack's correct phone numbers are as follows:

Restaurant: 415 647-3200;
Cell: 415 609-1977.

Please make a note of them, and call to discuss your business luncheon, baptismal or wedding reception, or any other event requiring food and use of the Cathedral's facilities.

HOLIDAY BRUNCH
TO BENEFIT
STUDENT AID ENDOWMENT

The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board and its Chapters invite you and your friends to its Annual Holiday Brunch, *Sleigh Bells Ring...* to be held at the Annunciation Cathedral, Saturday, December 4, 2004. The gala begins with a champagne reception at 11 a.m., and is followed by a superb luncheon at noon. Featured are three Christmas tree drawings, with prizes under the trees, valued at \$1,000 plus., in addition to entertainment and holiday bou-
tiques. The honored guest will be Georgia Skeadas, National Philoptochos President, and the Guest Speaker will be Father Luke Palumbus, newly appointed Pastor of St. Basil's Church in Stockton.

This year's Holiday Brunch is dedicated to His Eminence, **Metropolitan Anthony**, and to Past President **Irene Gianaras**, of blessed memory, who established this memorable event. Proceeds will benefit the Bishop Anthony Student Aid Endowment Fund, which supports our seminarians/students from our Metropolis of San Francisco at the Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Please complete and return the form below.

HONORING
THE KORINTHIAS COMMITTEE

Nearly ten years ago, when our buildings were but a shell, a "Korinthias Committee" came into being. This committee, headed by **Steve Chapralis**, **Frank Fotenos**, and **Michael Vriheas** raised funds to lay the floor in the gym, as well as install the backboards the score board, the lighting and other features of our multi-purpose facility. (Frank also helped spearhead the initial fund raising program, while Mike oversaw the construction of the entire project on behalf of the Cathedral.) The facility, as we know, was named for **Bill Korinthias**, founder of the athletic program at the

Cathedral and elsewhere and "father" of the OYAA (Orthodox Youth Athletic Association). It is time we honor these people for their efforts, which raised nearly \$200,000 for this facility. On **March 12, 2005**, a dinner will be held at the Korinthias Center, and a plaque, with the names of those who made the floor possible, will be unveiled. Please mark your calendars. Additional information will be forthcoming.

GIVE A LITTLE... GET A LITTLE...
MINI COOPER 2005

The Mini Cooper committee is pleased to announced that over 200 tickets (out of a maximum of 444 tickets) have been sold. We are getting closer to conducting the raffle. The raffle is for a 2005 silver metallic Mini Cooper, secured by the Annunciation Cathedral through Mini of San Francisco. The car which is being raffled off includes the following options: premium package, multi function steering wheel, glass moon roof, air conditioning, automatic transmission and a CD stereo player. Vehicle tax and license for this Mini Cooper are also included.

Meanwhile, Christmas is coming. Wouldn't it be a nice touch to put a raffle ticket in each family member's Christmas stocking? Or, do you have a child or grandchild in college? Wouldn't it be nice for them to be able to go back to college driving a new Mini Cooper?

We would like to hold the raffle early in 2005. As stated previously, the drawing will be conducted when 444 tickets at \$111 are sold. The Annunciation Cathedral Parish Council reserves the right to make adjustments, but in no case will more than 444 tickets be sold. The winner will be notified by mail, that is, in writing, and must be at least 18 years of age to win. The winner accepts the responsibility for insurance, income taxes and other costs of owning a vehicle. All that having been said, we think this is a great raffle, and this is why people are responding so well. For additional information, see **Michael Bagatelos**, our Mini Cooper chair, or call the Cathedral, at 415 864-8000.

HOLIDAY BRUNCH - SLEIGH BELLS RING

Enclosed is \$_____for_____Reservations at \$40.00 Each

I/We cannot attend. I/We wish to support the Bishop Anthony Student Aid Endowment Fund.
Enclosed please find my donation of \$_____ Payable to: Metropolis Philoptochos/BASAEF.

I wish to use VISA or MASTERCARD:

Acct. Number_____Exp. Date_____

Signature_____

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____E-mail_____

For reservations and further information, please contact: Pat Destein 415 883-7477
or Angie Leventis, 650 878-2855. Your Holiday Tickets will be held at the door.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT/LUNCHEON

On Sunday, December 19, our children will be performing a pageant representing the Annunciation and the Birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, through Bible readings, tableaux and songs and hymns in Greek and in English.

After the pageant, the entire community is invited to a complimentary (meatless/lenten) luncheon.

eon. The luncheon will be followed by Christmas activities and a visit from Santa. This event, sponsored by the Sunday School, promises to be educational, inspiring, and great fun for all.

In order to be prepared, we will need your children to be present and on time for rehearsals and, of course, for the performance. This means arriving no later than 10:15 a.m.

Sunday School will resume after the Christmas holidays, on Sunday, January 9th.

2004-2005 JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Junior varsity basketball practice for boys and girls has begun. We are delighted to have five teams in this category. All our practices are held in our Korinthias Center gym, as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|--|
| Wednesday evenings: | 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Boys C-1 Team, | Coached by Tom Nuris |
| | 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Boys C-2 Team, | Coached by Herb Ramos |
| | 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. | Boys A Team, | Coached by Darryl Chase |
| Thursday evenings: | 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Boys B Team, | Coached by Chris Kallas |
| | 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Girls A Team, | Coached by Nick Kontonis/Ari Stratakis |

CATHEDRAL TO OFFER CLASSES IN BYZANTINE CHANT, BEGINNING JAN. 18

In its ongoing service to the parish but also to all the parishes, as Cathedral of the Metropolis, beginning January 18, the Annunciation will be the setting for a Beginning Byzantine Chant class as well as an Intermediate Byzantine Chant class. The *beginning class*, which is designed for individuals who have never encountered Byzantine notation, is open to all who wish to learn the fundamentals of church music and serve their respective parishes in the Bay Area by learning the various hymns from Vespers and Orthros (the evening and morning prayer services of the Orthodox Church.) This class will be held at the Annunciation Cathedral, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco (between 14th Street and Duboce), Tuesday evenings, beginning January 18, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The *intermediate class*, which is designed for individuals who have some ability reading Byzantine notation and some exposure to Byzantine chant, is open to all who wish to master the hymnology of the Church and serve their respective parishes in the Bay Area by assisting or, in some cases, assuming the chanter position. Some of our parishes are without chanters and, therefore, these vital prayer services are either omitted or are simply read. This class will be held at the Annunciation Cathedral Thursday evenings, beginning January 20, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Both groups will meet together every Saturday, beginning January 22, 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and will participate in Vespers, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Both groups will conclude on the Saturday of Lazaros, April 23.

The classes will be taught by **John Boyer**, who is well known to us as Assistant Chanter. John, a student at the University of California, at Berkeley, began learning hymnology at the Holy Trinity, Portland parish, at the age of 4. John has received training in Byzantine Music by the well-known choirmaster and chanter, Lycourgos Angelopoulos, in Greece. In addition, John sings with Capella Romana, an internationally acclaimed choir, which has been recording not

only contemporary, but also early Byzantine chant.

The tuition for these intensive classes is \$225 per student, \$30 for texts and materials. The tuition can be paid either by the student or the parish sponsoring the student. Plenty of parking is available. For registration or for other information, please contact the Cathedral at 415 864-8000.

PRE-MARRIAGE CLASSES AT THE CATHEDRAL

As announced in the last two issues of the Herald, beginning 2005, couples planning to be married at the Cathedral will meet with **Father Stephen** (or another member of the Cathedral clergy) on four occasions prior to their marriage. The first and fourth meetings will be private, while the second and third meetings will take place with other couples who are also planning to be married within the same six-month period. Those meetings will take place on **Tuesday, February 8, 7-9 p.m.** and **Tuesday, April 19, also 7-9 p.m.** The meetings will take place in the second floor conference room. The meetings will deal an overview of the Orthodox perspective of marriage, marital relations, celebrating and growing, and a number of issues, including in-laws, communication, and fighting fair, money management, and mixed faiths, as applicable.

At the initial meeting, matters generally pertaining to their marriage will be discussed, and the date for their marriage will be set. At the last meeting, a marriage affidavit (application for a church license) will be completed and the rehearsal date will be set. Couples contemplating marriage at the Cathedral in 2005 (even 2006) should call schedule the initial meeting as soon as possible.

Couples planning to be married in another Orthodox Church should follow the protocols for marriage set by the parish in which they will be married. The priest of that parish will complete the paperwork and conduct their pre-marriage classes, *even though the couple still plans to continue their membership at the Cathedral.*

by Michael Canellos

To me it was a very special year as our nation prepared for its bicentennial. At last, America was at peace, the Vietnam War had finally reached its conclusion. The specter of Watergate, the endless protest marches, and the constant condemnation of the country had ceased. Gerald Ford was our new President and Gerald Brown our California Governor. The Oakland Raiders were destined to be "Super Bowl Champions" of 1976. Bruce Jenner was to be crowned, "The World's Greatest Athlete" at the Montreal Summer Olympics.

As America celebrated its 200th birthday, a rebirth of patriotism, optimism, and spiritualism seemed to spread throughout the land. Modernization, though always moving forward, had not as yet claimed our humanity. Home computers, laptops, the internet, cell phones, email, and palm pilots, existed in the future. 1976 was a more simple, innocent time, family values were still honored and cherished.

In 1976, **Father Theophilos** was the spiritual leader of the Annunciation Cathedral. One evening in early spring, we were having dinner together, when he casually inquired in his soft, gentle way, whether I would consider coaching the Annunciation youth in basketball. Somehow, he had heard that I was coaching youth baseball and working with blind adults, instructing them also in baseball. Father evidently felt that with my background in sports, that, perhaps, I would be interested in expanding my coaching to basketball. I reluctantly declined and apologetically explained that between my baseball commitments, law classes, work, and college baseball, little time was left in my week. After a long pause, he softly said that he completely understood. However, he then inquired if perhaps I would consider volunteering for only three weeks until he could find a coach. I remember answering, "three weeks only"!

Little did I know that when I agreed to this promise that literally, the course of my life would be taking a new path. Twenty eight years have now passed. I realize that I have been truly blessed to have had the privilege of coaching the youth here at the Annunciation. The small contribution I have made over these years has rewarded me a hundred times over. The friendships which I forged and the memories of these will forever be a part of me. Thank you to the entire Annunciation family for having entrusted me with you most precious possession - your children.

In the late 1980's, I had temporarily quit coaching. When my father died in 1989, **Father Stephen** came to me and suggested that the void my father had left in my life perhaps could partially be filled by returning to my dream. He reminded me that God had bestowed to me a most precious gift - the ability to work with children. Thank you, Father Stephen, for bringing me home again. I will always be grateful.

I will never know if Father Theo ever really intended to find another coach. Personally, I believe that, in his heart, he somehow knew the course of my destiny. A wise man once said, "we cannot stay young forever, that every era must end so that a new one can begin". The time has now come for the "old coach" to gather the smiles, the laughter, and the love that the

children have given him and silently fade away. It is time for a new era to begin.

Editors Note: Mike Canellos will continue to ably fulfill his other responsibilities at the Cathedral.

RELICS OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM/ ST GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN RETURNED TO THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Responding to the request of **Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew**, and recognizing the importance of St. John Chrysostom and St. Gregory the Theologian for Orthodox Christians around the world, Pope John Paul II returned the relics of these two great Fathers of the Church and Ecumenical Teachers to their original resting place in the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople on November 27. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew traveled to the Vatican to officially receive the relics from the Pope and accompany them to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and **Pope John Paul** have both emphasized reconciliation between the two churches, split since 1054. The return of the relics is a step toward such reconciliation.

The relics of St. John Chrysostom and St. Gregory the Theologian were taken from Constantinople in 1204 by mercenary crusaders. They ended up in Rome, where they have been kept in St. Peter's Basilica. Both Saints were famed preachers, theologians and predecessors of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the throne of Constantinople—St. Gregory from 379 to 381 and St. John from 398 to 404. St. John Chrysostom, meaning "Golden Mouth," is considered by theologians to be the foremost orator and preacher for the Orthodox Church. Orthodox Christians worldwide follow his words as we participate in the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. St. Gregory, an intellectual, theologian and religious leader, is known as the most eloquent voice in the Second Ecumenical Council, which took place in Constantinople in 381 A.D. This Council completed the Nicene Creed, which we recite at Baptisms and at every Divine Liturgy.

RECENT SERVICES AT THE CATHEDRAL

MARRIAGE

The marriage of **Jeffrey William Price** and **Margarita Aspasia Bagatelos** was celebrated November 13. Their sponsor is **Christina Bolich**.

Na Mas Zisoun! A Long Life!

FUNERALS

Kidonia Kazavis, who fell asleep in the Lord on October 29, was buried November 2. She is survived by her children, Irene Kosaris, John Kazavis, Dimitra Georgopoulos, Angie Goergakilas, and their families.

Anthony P. Vastardis, who fell asleep in the Lord on November 6, was buried November 10. She is survived by her son, Harry and his family.

Hariklia A. Melissaratos, who fell asleep in the Lord on November 8, was buried November 12. She is survived by a son, Gregory Melissaratos and a daughter, Eugenia Melissaratos.

Helen Delakis (Dellis), who fell asleep in the Lord on November 14, was buried November 18. She is survived by nephews and by the many members of the Delis and Vandarakis families.

Aionia aftion i mnimi! May their memory be eternal!

SAINT LUKE: A HOMILY

BY JAROSLAV PELIKAN

Sterling Professor of History at Yale University, Emeritus, Professor Pelikan preached at the Cathedral on October 19, 2003, following the unveiling of the icons which are now domiciled at the Monastery in Dunlap, as he explains in his homily. Professor Pelikan dedicated the homily "to my beloved and filotavtw/ Metropolitan Anthony, with filial (and paternal!) regards, Jaroslav Pelikan." The text of the homily follows:

It was an unexpected honor, as well as an awe-inspiring responsibility, and not a small surprise, when His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony telephoned me this past Wednesday to invite me to preach at the Divine Liturgy this morning, which was considerably shorter notice than I am accustomed to having. But of course I accepted--for a variety of reasons, most of which are one or another version of my special relation to His Eminence: because he was my student at Yale University, that makes me his *πατήρ πνευματικός*; but because he is Metropolitan, that makes him *my πατήρ πνευματικός*! Another reason is my deep and long-standing devotion to the Gospel event that is the eponym of this magnificent Cathedral, the Holy Annunciation to the Mother of God, ὁ Εὐαγγελισμός τῆς Θεοτόκου, celebrated on March 25 by our calendar. It has long stood for Christian theology as the supreme exemplar of the mysterious relation between the sovereign grace of God and the free will of the human person: even in the greatest event of all human history and of the history of salvation, God does not constrain or coerce, but respects the voluntary freedom of choice of the Jewish Maid of Nazareth. As one medieval interpreter put it, the angels held their breath until she, of her own free will, said: "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord. Let it happen to me according to your Word." I incorporated an entire album of icons and paintings of the Εὐαγγελισμός into my book *Mary Through the Centuries*; and when it came time--finally!--for me to be formally received into the Orthodoxy that had been my real spiritual home for so long, my chrismation by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, took place on the Feast of the Annunciation.

But I want to take advantage of this unique opportunity to relate that devotion to the Annunciation and the Theotokos to yesterday's feast, which as it happens is the same on the Eastern and the Western calendar of the church year: 18 October, the Feast of Saint Luke, Ὅσιος Λουκᾶς, which in a special way unites several dimensions of this weekend's celebrations:

1. The unveiling and dedication of these magnificent icons from His Eminence's native Crete written by Michalis Vasilakis for the Holy Monastery of the Theotokos, Life-Giving Spring at "the Ranch" in Dunlap.

One of the by-products of the historical process of "the decline of Hellenism," which has been charted with such profound learning and sharp insight by my colleague, Professor Speros Vryonis, and then of the no less calamitous crisis of Orthodoxy during the 20th century in the Slavic Lands that are my ancestral home, has been a defensive withdrawal into the past, whether real or imagined. For altogether understandable reasons, the Orthodox reverence for tradition could easily become the mentality of a museum (or a mausoleum) and the dynamic of continuity could be mistaken for a static identity.

Nowhere has this mentality been more (you should pardon the pun!) visible than in iconography. Ignoring the undeniable changes and developments that have taken place in the history of icon-writing, as well as the huge differences among not only periods but regions and schools, artists have been tempted to become Byzantine Xerox

machines. But on 18 October we celebrate St. Luke as the patron of iconography. When I had the honor of delivering the Andrew W. Mellon Lectures in the History of Art at the National Gallery in Washington in 1987, which was the 1200th anniversary of the 7th Ecumenical Council that we celebrated at our liturgies last Sunday, I chose an icon of St. Luke writing the icon of the Theotokos as a lead illustration. For St. Luke, as traditionally the first Christian iconographer, had the boldness to create and to innovate a new form--even though it took many centuries and the bitterness of the Iconoclastic Controversies to vindicate the form and to identify its creativity.

In continuity with that tradition and therefore in honor of Ὅσιος Λουκᾶς, Michalis Vasilakis has manifested his boldness with these arresting icons. No one would call them anything but icons, but also no one would imagine that they have just been unearthed by some archaeologist or stolen from some museum. They are of here and now; therefore--not nevertheless, but therefore--they stand in an unbroken succession, what the Greek Church Fathers call a *διαδοχή*, with the great anonymous artists of the Orthodox past, and yes, with Saint Andrei Rublev and El Greco, and ultimately with Saint Luke.

2. The abiding force of Greek language and of Greek literature in the life not only of this Cathedral and this Diocese, but of Orthodoxy--as well as in my life and philosophy as a reader and an author. I should probably explain that I have been persuaded, in my eightieth year, to undertake for the first time in a long scholarly career, the composition of a biblical commentary, and that it deals with the Acts of the Apostles. For almost a year now I have spent part of every day with the Greek text of Acts, tracing its vocabulary through the Classical and Hellenistic and Κοινή, parsing its grammar, and locating its literary style in context.

More than for any other book of the New Testament, that context is, for the Book of Acts, the writings of the great Greek historians, above all, of Thucydides, and even of the dramatists. Only in that pre-Christian context can we appreciate the central role of the speeches--of St. Peter, St. Stephen protomartyr, and St. Paul--which do for the narrative of Acts what the funeral Oration of Pericles and other speeches do for The History of the Peloponnesian War of Thucydides and, in a sense, what the choruses do for Aeschylus and Sophocles.

Having been privileged in my own education to spend four solid years learning classical Greek and studying its texts before I undertook the study of the Greek New Testament and the Greek Fathers, I remember being, I must admit, somewhat let down by the Greek of the New Testament. I missed the subtlety and precision of language that I had come to admire and love in Classical Greek. It was not considered pious to admit to such feelings, at a seminary, but they were undeniably there--until I came to the Greek of St. Luke in the Gospel and in Acts.

It is not Classical Greek, not a museum piece, but it does manifest the same qualities that I cherished--and still cherish--in the great Classical writers. And it proves that, despite what some misguided believers will try to tell you, one can be a Christian and love those qualities, as St. Basil the Great points out in his famous letter about Classical learning... Therefore, St. Paul could have been talking about his interpreter and traveling companion St. Luke when he admonished...: "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Phil. 4.8).

3. The unique position of Saint Luke as not only Apostle and Evangelist, but the first and only New Testament writer to move, without missing a beat, from the narrative of the Gospels to the history of the Church--or, in

the language of the faith that we are about to recite "in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church," (εις μίαν Ἀγίαν, Καθολικὴν καὶ Ἀποστολικὴν Ἐκκλησίαν) to describe as a historian how the Church was enabled, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to become "Catholic" and yet to remain "Apostolic"--as well as "One" and "Holy," neither of which, as all of us know all too well, especially in American Orthodoxy, is an easy task.

In addition to physicians and iconographers, therefore, I think that we historians should claim St. Luke as our patron saint. Inspired by the Holy Spirit but fully aware of his craft as a historian, he described in the prologue to his Gospel, volume 1 of his two-volume history, how he would proceed in the Gospel and then in Acts: "It seemed good to me [a] having followed all things accurately, [παρηκολούθηκότες ἄνωθεν πᾶσιν ἀκριβῶς] [b] to write an orderly account for you [καθεξῆς σοι γράψαι]."

(a) For his Gospel, St. Luke did that "following," that research into the available sources from the original "eyewitnesses and ministries of the word," (1.2), because he, of course, had not been one. Among these, according to

early tradition, was the Blessed Virgin Mary herself, who (perhaps while she was sitting for the portrait ...of her) narrated the events of chapters 1 and 2, including Annunciation, Magnificat, and Nativity...of which she had uniquely been the "eyewitness." But for the Acts, St. Luke was himself an "eyewitness," in the celebrated we passages, where he shifts from "he went" to "we went," ; and as the colleague of St. Paul, he also had unique access to him as a primary source.

(b) But, as I have always insisted to all my students, including the young Father Anthony, all this primary research does not yet history make. One must write it, and do so, moreover, in an "orderly account." During 60 years of scholarly oscillating--or, as I have now learned to say, "toggling"--between such research with precision [ajkrivbeia], and such writing--I have been sustained, and humbled, by the example of all the historians of the Church who have gone before, beginning with "Ὅσιος Λουκάς". Blessed be his memory forever or, as we pray in the Slavonic Orthodox tradition, V'ecnaia (3) pamya't! 'Ev ónómati tou Patρός καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος.

ΝΕΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΥ

Ο ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΗΣ ΜΑΣ ΣΤΟ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ

Ξαφνικά στις 18 Νοεμβρίου ο Σεβασμιώτατος Μητροπολίτης μας, κ. Αντώνιος βρέθηκε στο νοσοκομείο, όπου και νοσηλεύεται για καρκίνο στις λυμφαδένες. Σύμφωνα με το ανακοινωθέν από τον θεράποντα του ιατρό, Δρ. Ιωσήφ Τοσκάνο, του Νοσοκομείου του Πανεπιστημίου της Καλιφόρνιας, Ντέιβις, ο Σεβασμιώτατος θεραπεύεται με χημειοθεραπεία και άλλα επιστημονικά μέσα, προβλέπεται δε να συνεχιστεί η θεραπεία για αρκετούς μήνες.

Μόλις πληροφορηθήκαμε για την ασθένεια του Σεβασμιωτάτου, ετελέσαμε Παράκληση υπέρ υγείας, σωτηρίας, επισκέψεως, διαφυλάξεως, θεραπείας, αναρρώσεως, και αποκαταστάσεως της υγείας του Αρχιεπισκόπου και Πατρός ημών Αντωνίου.

Προσευχόμαστε και ελπίζουμε στον Θεό. Θα συνεχίσουμε να ψάλλουμε την Παράκληση μετά κάθε Θεία Λειτουργία και Ακολουθία.

ΕΠΤΑ ΥΠΟΨΗΦΙΟΙ ΓΙΑ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ

Μετά τη Γενική Συνέλευση των Μελών του Καθεδρικού Ναού, που έγινε στις 17 Νοεμβρίου, επτά μέλη υπόβαλαν υποψηφιότητα για το Κοινοτικό Συμβούλιο. Οι εκλογές θα γίνουν στις 12 Δεκεμβρίου, αμέσως μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία. Οι επτά υποψήφιοι είναι η Παναγιώτα Αλεξοπούλου, ο Γιώργος Αμπαδιοτάκης, ο Νίκος Κοντόνης, ο Πέτρος Μανέτας, ο Μιχάλης Μισθός, ο Νίκος Ράλλης και ο Γιάννης Τσουκλαράκης. Θα υπηρετήσουν για δύο έτη, 2005-2007. Τους ευχόμαστε καλή πρόοδο και καλή πρόοδο για την Κοινότητά μας.

ΒΥΖΑΝΤΙΝΗ ΎΜΝΟΛΟΓΙΑ

Είμαστε τυχεροί που έχουμε μαζί μας τον **Γιάννη Μπόγερ**, νεαρό βοηθό ψάλτη στον Καθεδρικό Ναό, ο οποίος σπουδάζει μουσική στο Πανεπιστήμιο της Καλιφόρνιας στο Μπέρκλυ και ο οποίος είναι διατεθειμένος να διδάξει την υμνολογία της Εκκλησίας μας. Τα μαθήματα θα αρχίσουν τον Ιανουάριο, συγκεκριμένα 18 Ιανουαρίου, ημέρα Τρίτη και ώρα 6:30 μ.μ. για όλους όσοι δεν γνωρίζουν τίποτε για την Ορθόδοξη εκκλησιαστική μουσική, και 20 Ιανουαρίου, ημέρα Πέμπτη και ώρα 6:30 μ.μ. για όλους όσοι έχουν κάποια εμπειρία. Για να γραφείτε, ή για περισσότερες πληροφορίες, τηλεφωνείτε στο Γραφείο του Καθεδρικού Ναού, 415 864-8000.

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΙΑΤΙΚΗ ΚΑΡΤΑ

Όπως εις το παρελθόν έτσι και εφέτος η Κοινότητα του Καθεδρικού Ναού ετοιμάζει χριστουγεννιάτικη κάρτα που θα σταλεί σ' όλα τα μέλη του, περίπου σε 1,000 οικογένειες. Θα θέλατε και σεις να περιληφθεί το όνομά σας; Συμπληρώσετε και αποστείλετε το ακόλουθο απόκομμα, μέχρι τις 5 Δεκεμβρίου, μαζί με την προσφορά σας εκ \$20 για κάθε γραμμή, στον Καθεδρικό Ναό, 245 Valencia St. San Francisco, CA 94103, ή εάν προτιμάτε, τηλεφωνείτε και μιλείστε με την Μαριάμ, 415 864-8000.

ΓΕΥΜΑ ΠΡΟΣ ΕΝΙΣΧΥΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΤΑΜΕΙΟΥ ΥΠΟΤΡΟΦΙΩΝ ΤΩΝ ΙΕΡΟΣΠΟΥΔΑΣΤΩΝ

Όπως γράψαμε και στο αγγλικό μέρος του παρόντος δελτίου και ανανεινώσαμε μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία τις περασμένες 6-8 Κυριακές, η Φιλόπρωχος Αδελφότητα του Καθεδρικού Ναού, μαζί με την Φιλόπρωχο της Μητρόπολής μας, οργανώνει γεύμα στον Καθεδρικό Ναό, στις 4 Δεκεμβρίου, προς ενίσχυση του ταμείου υποτροφιών που πληρώνει προς το παρόν ένα μέρος των εξόδων των φοιτητών από την Μητρόπολή μας που σπουδάζουν στη Θεολογική Σχολή του Τιμίου Σταυρού.

Στόχος του ταμείου, που άρχισε η αιώνιος Ειρήνη Γιανναρά, τότε πρόεδρος της Φιλοπόχου της Επισκοπής μας μαζί με τον Σεβασμιώτατο Μητροπολίτη μας, είναι να ανταποκριθεί σ' όλα τα διδάκτρα των ιεροσπουδαστών μας. Ο σκοπός είναι ιερός.

Ελάτε να βοηθήσετε και σεις. Για να κλείσετε θέσεις, ή για περισσότερες πληροφορίες, αποστείλετε την προσφορά σας, 40 δολάρια το άτομο, μαζί με το όνομά σας, στο: **Holiday Brounch, 245 ἄλενχια Στρεετ, Σαν Φρανχισχο, ΧΑ 94103** ή εάν προτιμάτε, τηλεφωνείτε και μιλείστε με την Μαριάμ, 415 864-8000.

A Light Christmas Mail Tale

It was once suggested that the Post Office should frank the Christmas mail with an appropriate text from the Bible. One light-hearted sorter suggested that they should put -

"The Lord Deliver Us".

**ANNUNCIATION
CATHEDRAL
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

December 2004

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------|--|---|
| Sunday Schedule 9:00 am - Orthros 9:00 - 10:15 am - Introducing the Orthodox Faith 10:30 am - Divine Liturgy & Sunday School 12:00 am - Coffee Hour 12:30 pm - Greek Bible Study | | | | | | |
| STEWARDSHIP KICKOFF | ST. NICHOLAS 10 - Liturgy | 6:30-9:00 - Dance Practice | 4-6 - Greek School for Children 6-8 - Greek School for Adults 6:30- Basketball Practice | 7 - OYAA Meeting | | "SLEIGH BELLS RING" 11 - Reception 12 - Luncheon |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| PARISH ELECTIONS | | 6:30-9:00 - Dance Practice | 4-6 - Greek School for Children 6-8 - Greek School for Adults 6:30- Basketball Practice | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Sunday School Pageant and Luncheon | | 6:30-9:00 - Dance Practice | 4-6 - Greek School for Children 6-8 - Greek School for Adults 6:30- Basketball Practice | | CHRISTMAS EVE ST. EUGENIA 9:00 - Great Hours 10:00 - Vespers Liturgy | CHRISTMAS 9:00 - Vespers 10:30 - Divine Liturgy |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Parish Council Oath of Office | | | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

HONORING THE KORINTHIAS COMMITTEE

70TH (OR IS IT 85TH) ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Nearly ten years ago, when our buildings were but a shell, a "Korinthias Committee" came into being. This committee, headed by **Steve Chapralis**, **Frank Fotenos**, and **Michael Vriheas** raised funds to lay the floor in the gym, as well as install the backboards the score board, the lighting and other features of our multi-purpose facility. (Frank also helped spearhead the initial fund raising program, while Mike oversaw the construction of the entire project on behalf of the Cathedral.) The facility, as we know, was named for **Bill Korinthias**, founder of the athletic program at the Cathedral and elsewhere and "father" of the OYAA (Orthodox Youth Athletic Association). It is time we honor these people for their efforts, which raised nearly \$200,000 for this facility. On March 12, 2005, a dinner will be held at the **Korinthias Center**, and a plaque, with the names of those who made the floor possible, will be unveiled. Please mark your calendars. Additional information will be forthcoming.

We are making plans to mark the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the Annunciation. Recall that our community began in 1921 as St. Sophia. Following six years in a church at Hayes and Pierce Streets in San Francisco, in 1927, the community acquired the Valencia Street Theater, which it turned into a church. Meanwhile, the community was named as Cathedral Church for the newly established Diocese of San Francisco. (Initially there were four Dioceses which made up the Archdiocese, established in 1922; these were: New York, Boston, Chicago and, of course, San Francisco.) In 1936 the community reorganized as "United Greek Orthodox Community of San Francisco, The Annunciation." Since then, it has been known, simply, as "Annunciation Cathedral."

November 11, 2006 is the date selected for this gala celebration. Please note the date on your 2006 calendars.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

What a wonderful way to extend greetings to one another! Your name and that of your family in an original Christmas card, designed for the Cathedral, and sent to the approximately 1,000 names on the Cathedral's mailing list. All for a modest donation of \$20.00 per line. Please complete and return the form below, together with your donation, to the Annunciation Cathedral, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 by December 5, 2004. Or, if you prefer, you may call the Cathedral and speak with Mariam Arsinoos, who is coordinating our 2004 Community Christmas Card, or see her or Annette Chiappari on Sunday, following the Divine Liturgy.

Please include me/us in the Cathedral's 2004 Community Christmas Card. Please list me/us as follows:

Enclosed is a donation of \$20.00 per line, payable to the Annunciation Cathedral.

23rd ANNUAL CRAB FEED

Always a sell-out event, our 23rd annual crab feed will take place Friday, January 21, 2005. No host refreshments will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. The Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos is sponsoring and chairing this event. For reservations, please call **Anna Dricos** at 415 647-3853 or **Ackie Argyres** at 415 751-2180. The admission is \$40 per person. Reservations will be secured only by receipt of payment. Tickets must be paid for by January 7th. Valet parking will be available.

If you prefer, you may complete and return the form below, by January 7th.

Enclosed is \$ _____

Please reserve _____ tickets at \$40.00 each and/or _____ Table(s) (no more than 10 to a table). Please include names of all guests to be seated at your table together with this reservation form.

Make checks payable to: **Annunciation Philoptochos** - Attention: Crab Feed.
Mail to: 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Please note: seating assignments will be held at the door.

DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY 9, 2005

Annual Vasilopeta

JANUARY 18, 2005

Byzantine Chant (Beginners)

JANUARY 20, 2005

Byzantine Chant (Intermediate)

JANUARY 21, 2005

Cathedral Philoptochos Crab Feed

MARCH 6, 2005

Metropolitan Anthony's 70th

MARCH 12, 2005

Honoring the Korinthias Committee

MARCH 25, 2005

Church Name Day Luncheon

MAY 7, 2005

Mother's Day Luncheon/Fashion Show

June 19, 2005

Father's Day Brunch

OCTOBER 29, 2005

Metropolitan Anthony's Retirement Banquet

NOVEMBER 11, 2006

70th Anniversary Celebration

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# A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



KΑΛΑ  
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ  
ΕΙΣ ΟΛΟΥΣ!

## ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-2320



Orthodox Institute  
2311 Hearst Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94709